Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

2014/15
Annual Service Plan Report

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Minister's Message and Accountability Statement

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is responsible for stewardship of provincial Crown land and natural resources, and protection of B.C.'s archaeological and heritage resources. Overseeing a land base of 94.8 million hectares, the ministry supports the sustainable management of forest, mineral and land resources and the prosperity, viability and competitiveness of industries that use them; and public access for a wide range of activities such as hunting, fishing and recreation. The ministry is responsible for policy development, operational management and implementation related to all or part of 55 statutes and associated regulations.

We are now four years into a streamlined approach that integrates policy with operational resource management, creating a single land manager for the province's resource sector. This approach has resulted in greater coordination between agencies and organizations, providing a more efficient system to support B.C. workers, businesses, investors and the environment. It's a regional approach that allows government staff to make effective and informed decisions that take into account the needs of the communities, people and ecosystems directly affected.

One of the ministry's key focuses is the forest sector. In 2014, total forest product exports reached $12.4 billion – up seven per cent from 2013; and total forest sector employment increased 1.1 per cent to provide 60,700 direct jobs. Early indications are that 2015 will continue the trend. That means more revenue to support the vital services British Columbians have come to rely on. The upturn in the forest sector helped contribute to increased forestry revenues received by government. Overall, in 2014/15, the ministry collected $1.26 billion in natural resource revenue to help support vital public services like health care and education. However, for forestry to remain a strong economic contributor, we need to continue to have policies that support investment.

As noted in the 2015 Throne Speech, the ministry is working on a Forest Sector Competitiveness Strategy, which focuses on the need to ensure a reliable and sustainable timber supply, continued support for a competitive environment for industry, sustained efforts to grow markets for B.C. wood, ongoing diversification of product range, and improving certainty around the land base.

In support of competitiveness, my ministry has taken steps to enhance the effectiveness of BC Timber Sales. Acting on recommendations from the BC Timber Sales effectiveness review, we introduced amendments to the *Forest Act* to encourage more accurate timber pricing, help BC Timber Sales generate more revenue, and improve the organization's overall business practices. Collectively, the changes could increase BC Timber Sales annual net revenue by as much as $4 million. These changes will ensure that BC Timber Sales continues to play an important role in supporting economic prosperity in rural communities through safe and sustainable forest management.

Meanwhile, my ministry has taken steps to better protect our forests and rural communities, providing an additional $5 million to continue our support of the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative program. The new funding will focus on prescription and fuel treatment projects in communities facing higher-than-average wildfire risks. The B.C. government introduced the Strategic Wildfire

Prevention Initiative in 2004, and over the following decade the program provided $62 million to help local governments and First Nations significantly reduce wildfire risks around their communities, especially in interface areas where urban developments border on forests and grasslands.

As we move forward with our integrated approach, we are implementing a cumulative effects assessment framework into our decision-making processes. This framework takes into account the combined effects of past, present and future actions that impact the economic, environmental and social value of the land. These values include wildlife habitat and sensitive ecosystems, clean air and water. A cumulative effects framework replaces a project-by-project focus with ongoing broad-based area assessments. The net result will be better information for clients and government decision-makers.

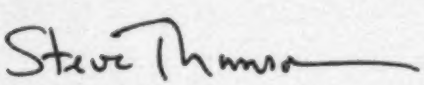
As announced in Budget 2015, the ministries of Environment and Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations have received additional funding to support the implementation of the *Water Sustainability Act*. A key component of the new Act is licensing for groundwater. Ministry staff are working to develop the regulations and application framework to support the regulations that come into effect in 2016.

Ministry staff effectively managed the transition of 360 sub-tenures along the Lower Fraser River from Port Metro Vancouver to the Province. All existing tenure holders, First Nations, MLAs, MPs, local governments, and other agencies/ministries were informed of the transition, and ministry staff did an exemplary job in ensuring an efficient client-centred process throughout the transition.

While the ministry has many accomplishments over the past year, I would particularly like to highlight the agreement to transfer 100 per cent of revenue generated from fishing licences to the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC. The funding – which amounts to approximately $10 million annually, an increase of almost $3 million a year – will allow the society to work with provincial biologists to improve angling opportunities in small lakes, large lakes and rivers. This includes angler access improvements, stock assessment to help inform management decisions, and resources to enhance capacity for compliance monitoring and enforcement on both stocked and wild waterbodies. The society is recognized as one of the most progressive and accomplished fisheries management organizations in North America generating economic benefits and providing world-class angling opportunities. The society's excellence in service delivery, innovation, partnership building and operational efficiencies will be enhanced by this increased support.

As manager for the commercial and recreational activities that occur on Crown land, this ministry continues to build a natural resource sector in B.C. that is sustainable and environmentally responsible, while contributing to a strong economy and a lasting legacy for generations to come.

The *Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations 2014/15 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the *2014/15 - 2016/17 Service Plan*. I am accountable for those results as reported.



Honourable Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Table of Contents

Minister's Message and Accountability Statement 3
Table of Contents 5
Purpose of the Ministry 6
Strategic Direction and Context 6
Report on Performance 7
Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results 7
Ministry Financial Report 21
Forest Practices Board Financial Report 24
Appendix A: Contact Information and Hyperlinks 25
Appendix B: List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions 27
Appendix C: Minister's Mandate and Actions Summary 28

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is responsible for stewardship of Provincial Crown land and natural resources, and protection of B.C.'s archaeological and heritage resources. Overseeing a land base of 94.8 million hectares, the ministry supports the sustainable management of forest, mineral and land resources; prosperity, viability and competitiveness of industries that use them; and public access for a wide range of activities such as hunting, fishing and recreation. The ministry is responsible for policy development, operational management and implementation related to all or part of 55 statutes and associated regulations.

Strategic Direction and Context

Strategic Direction

The ministry continued to focus on the strategic priorities identified in the *BC Jobs Plan* and the *Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan*. The ministry remained committed to delivering its goals, objectives and strategies in keeping with Government's platform of compensation and accountability as described in the Taxpayer Accountability Principles. The Minister's Mandate Letter of June 2013 outlined the top strategic priorities for 2014/15, as reflected throughout this report.

Strategic Context

The ministry operates within a complex economic and ecological environment with multiple external influences impacting its operations. A few examples are discussed below.

Gross Domestic Product and the forestry sector.

British Columbia's real GDP increased by 2.6 per cent in 2014 (according to preliminary GDP by industry data from Statistics Canada), following growth of 1.9 per cent in 2013. B.C.'s total forestry GDP reached $7 billion in 2014 and continues to represent one of the province's top economic engines. Employment figures in the forestry sector are stable and slowly growing, with more than 60,000 direct jobs. B.C. exports and manufacturing shipments posted notable gains. As the largest export category in the province, forestry represented 36 per cent of commodities exports in 2014, up 5 per cent since 2011. Market diversification has also been increasing, with China's share of B.C. forest product exports nearly doubling from 16.5 per cent in 2009 to 30.85 per cent in 2014.

Several risks to B.C.'s economy remain, including the potential for a slowdown in domestic and U.S. activity, ongoing fragility in Europe, and slower than anticipated Asian demand, particularly in China. These risks may be offset by a low Canadian dollar, which increases the competitiveness of Canadian exports, including forest products, and low oil prices, which may help to stimulate economic growth in Asia.

Managing multiple interests and overlapping demands.

Increased and competing demands on how B.C.'s natural resources are used has led to challenging decisions for land managers and licensed users of Crown land. Solidifying the integrated delivery of natural resource management through the one land manager model remained a key ministry priority as did designing new approaches and tools to better manage the cumulative effects of multiple activities.

Supporting competitive business conditions that facilitate jobs and economic growth.

The government is committed to ensuring development opportunities are available where they make economic and environmental sense. To help realize these opportunities, in 2014/15 the ministry

committed to improved timeframes for decisions regarding resource-use authorizations, fostering a healthy business environment where the natural resource sectors could thrive while maintaining sustainable stewardship practices. This includes developing a forest sector competitiveness strategy for a strong, sustainable and globally competitive forest sector.

Maintaining a healthy and safe environment.

B.C.'s natural environment is influenced by factors such as habitat fragmentation, invasive species, and climate change that influence wildfires, floods, landslides, droughts and outbreak of pests like the mountain pine beetle. To keep B.C.'s natural environment healthy, the ministry managed natural resources in a way that considered these potential impacts, and the long-term implications they may have to the sustainability of resource values and communities. In 2014/15, the ministry responded to these factors through its climate change adaptation strategy; wildfire management strategic plan; the remediation of contaminated sites; the *BC Flood Response Plan*; and ongoing cooperation with Emergency Management BC.

Report on Performance

The Premier's June 2013 Mandate Letter provided the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations with direction on strategic priorities. On June 10, 2014, an updated Mandate Letter to the Minister carried over many of the priorities. The ministry's resulting actions to March 31, 2015 are summarized in Appendix C. Highlights include: an agreement with Freshwater Fisheries Society BC to enable the transfer of 100 per cent of net angling revenues to the Society; the *Off-Road Vehicle Act* that replaces the province's 40-year-old *Motor Vehicle (All Terrain) Act* that will provide certainty, safety and regulatory structure for thousands of off-road enthusiasts; and, a new multi-year strategy for Forests for Tomorrow to achieve a new steady-state target of planting 28 million seedlings annually, by 2019/20 (up from 18 million seedlings planned for 2015/16).

The ministry operated in accordance with the Taxpayer Accountability Principles prior to their full implementation, and the following sections highlight how its goals support the principles.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

The ministry aligned its activities under three goals to achieve environmental sustainability and economic prosperity:

1. Efficient, citizen-centred public service delivery;
2. Coordinated and sustainable management, use and stewardship of B.C.'s natural capital; and
3. Productive, thriving natural resource sector and resilient communities.

The following nine selected performance measures gauge progress toward the ministry goals and associated objectives as established for the 2014/15-2016/17 Service Plan.

Goal 1: Efficient, citizen-centred public service delivery.

This goal supports the Taxpayer Accountability Principles of Cost Consciousness (Efficiency) and Service by delivering effective, value-for-money public services and programs. It also supports Government's strategic goal of a strong economy through streamlining natural resource authorizations and integrating client services which facilitates resource job creation and encourages industry investment. The ministry supports government's Liquefied Natural Gas initiative through streamlined permit authorization services, through its Major Projects Office that facilitates large scale projects that require multiple approvals, and through Crown land sales and tenuring supports for development of Liquefied Natural Gas facilities.

Objective 1.1: Streamlined authorizations processes.

Strategies

- Implement common standards among provincial natural resource sector agencies to facilitate a coordinated, harmonized approach to resource use authorization decisions on Crown land, particularly for projects requiring multiple approvals.
- Improve service delivery and timeliness of authorization processes through application of continuous improvement programs and regular performance monitoring of processing time of key authorizations.
- Streamline authorization processes through increased use of automation by implementing electronic authorizations, licensing, payment and permitting options, and client-directed authorizations.

Performance Measure 1: Natural resource authorizations streamlining.

Performance Measure	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual[1]	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Per cent of new *Land Act* and *Water Act* tenure applications processed within 140 days	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%	69%	80%	80%

Data Source: Authorization Tracking System

[1] There is no actual for 2013/14 as the performance measure was new that year. A baseline under the new performance measure will be established in 2014/15.

Discussion

The ministry continues to demonstrate its focus on natural resource authorization streamlining, and to provide timely decisions with less red tape. The ministry is a key sector partner, working collaboratively with the Natural Resource Transformation Secretariat to support delivery of the Natural Resource Permitting Project to modernize systems, integrate tools and provide access to shared data, all of which will contribute to streamlined authorizations and processes across the natural resource sector. This new performance measure assesses an aspect of the ministry's commitment to

streamline the regulatory framework for managing the province's forests, lands and natural resources, and supports commitments in the *BC Strategic Plan* and the *BC Jobs Plan*. Providing timely government decisions on resource applications supports a strong economy and translates to actual jobs for British Columbians.

The performance measure builds upon the previous year's performance measure to reduce processing times for new mining notice of work applications. Upon achieving that target, the measure was changed to focus on reducing *Land Act* and *Water Act* application processing times. The measure uses data from the Authorization Tracking System reported by FrontCounter BC. The targets consider a number of factors such as historical land and water application processing time data and implementation of improved process efficiencies.

The 2014/15 result of 69 per cent serves as a baseline and targets may be adjusted in future years based on historical trending. Results for 2014/15 are calculated based on applications received on or after April 1, 2014 through to December 31, 2014. For 2015/16 and future reports, results will be calculated based on applications received on or after January 1st through to December 31st of each calendar year.

Streamlining work completed in 2014/15 included the launch of electronic Crown land applications in May 2014, implementation of tools to assist staff with processing applications more efficiently, and development of workload sharing processes between regional offices. Performance trends improved during the year once staff and clients became familiar with the new systems. The ministry anticipates that as further streamlining is implemented, trends will continue to rise towards meeting future targets.

Objective 1.2: Integrated and coordinated client services.

Strategies

- Collaborate with natural resource agencies, federal agencies and municipalities to harmonize regulations and integrate land-based decision-making.
- Implement an integrated multi-agency strategy to streamline the approval process for multi-agency major projects, such as liquefied natural gas.
- Focus natural-resource authorization services on clients' needs by being responsive to the interests of citizens and businesses, exploring new client engagement mechanisms to improve relationships and services, and enhancing access through electronic submission options.
- Develop new geospatial products and services to support resource management decisions, environmental stewardship and the evolving needs of the broad natural resource sector.

Performance Measure 2: Client satisfaction with natural resource authorizations services.

Performance Measure	2007/08 Baseline	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual[2]	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Client satisfaction success score	71	77.6	74.7	82	73.8	82	82

Data Source: FrontCounter BC Authorization Tracking System and BCStats Client Satisfaction Survey.

[1] Forecast and targets are set using 18 month trending, and considering operational context (e.g., creation of the new Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, budget impacts on staffing levels, global economic factors, etc.).

Discussion

This performance measure monitors client satisfaction with natural resource authorization services through data collected by FrontCounter BC. It combines two aspects: business' and individuals' ability to obtain information and assistance with preparing applications for resource-use authorizations; and client satisfaction with the overall authorization process across natural resource sector ministries.

To establish a target, the ministry assesses similar organizations across Canada and strives to achieve a 'best-in-class' score. Through a one-window, streamlined service, the province not only offers a high quality client experience that assists clients through the regulatory process, but also strives to make B.C. a preferred choice for investment dollars resulting in further economic development for our province.

The scores have been trending down over the past two years, attributed to the high degree of change in the natural resource sector including shifts to electronic applications, shifts in service providers and shifts in staff resources. As these changes settle and clients become familiar with the new systems and processes, efficiencies will be realized and the ministry anticipates client satisfaction scores will improve.

Goal 2: Coordinated and sustainable management, use and stewardship of B.C.'s natural capital.

This goal supports the Taxpayer Accountability Principles of Accountability, Respect and Integrity. Also, in keeping with government's strategic goals for a strong economy and a secure future, the ministry is dedicated to transparency in managing its stewardship responsibilities and acting in the best interest of citizens of the province. The ministry engages in equitable, respectful communications to ensure all parties and First Nations are properly informed and consulted on actions and decisions in a timely manner.

Objective 2.1: The development and use of natural resources are accomplished within the standards set out in the ministry's legislative and regulatory framework.

Strategies

- Develop the information, policy, tools and practices necessary to embed climate change adaptation considerations and actions into management of natural resources.
- Enhance public trust in natural and heritage resource management practices and operations by promoting efficient processes and values-based decision making principles and engaging with stakeholders and communities.
- Develop policy and tools to support assessment and consideration of cumulative effects in natural resource decision-making.
- Enhance natural resource stewardship through effective compliance and enforcement actions that include inspections and investigations on major projects, water use, land use and forestry.

Performance Measure 3: Monitoring statutory requirements within the resource management sector.

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Baseline[2]	2014/15 Target[3]	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Compliance & Enforcement (C&E) Presence[1] Percent of C&E staff time spent in the field with regulated entities	N/A	N/A	70%	72%	69%	74%	76%

Data Source: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Natural Resource Information System

[1] Compliance & Enforcement Presence is defined as the amount of C&E field staff capacity that is presented to the regulated community, expressed as a percentage of actual time against available operational capacity. This performance measure was redefined in 2014. The former title was "Meeting management and use standards" and measured the "Per cent of the regulated community's compliance with statutory requirements".

[2] Performance measure baseline established in 2014/15 was 70%.

[3] Baseline differs from forecast for 2014/15 as the baseline was estimated from historical data and the forecast was made anticipating improvements to data and business processes.

Discussion

This measure demonstrates the ministry's active and visible role in upholding the province's laws to protect natural resources through its compliance and enforcement framework.

Field presence is the amount of time that compliance and enforcement staff are physically on site with regulated entities. Presence of ministry compliance and enforcement staff acts as a proactive deterrent in itself, while providing the opportunity for improved stakeholder and community relations. Changes to the amount of time compliance and enforcement staff spend with regulated entities and the public are directly correlated with changes in compliance rates.

A new Natural Resource Information System was created to record presence and became operational during 2014/15; however it was not able to capture all of the time defined as presence and some estimates were made. The system has been enhanced to provide more precise data in the future.

This year's results were impacted by the winter weather which limited some field activity. In addition, an increased need for more complex investigations reduced available resources toward field presence. The baseline information recorded in 2014/15 will be used in future years to assess compliance rates against presence and allow the ministry to adjust priorities and focus to promote compliance where necessary.

Increased compliance and enforcement field presence is a result of savings in administration time, and is achieved by ongoing improvements in business processes including updated policies and procedures to provide a streamlined and consistent process across a broad mandate. Additional improvements include the provincial Natural Resource Operations TIPS line that will target activities that warrant higher priority, making field presence more effective and increasing efficiency in distributing staff. As well as Natural Resource Violations Reporting which is a decision making tool that will use data to support resource deployment and focus, organizational structure and confirmation of trends that directly affect the field presence of officers.

Performance Measure 4: Resource decision data quality index.

Performance Measure	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Quality of resource monitoring data used for resource stewardship decisions[1]	N/A	N/A	7.3	8.0	8.1	8.5	9.1

Data Source: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Provincial and Regional Operations.

[1] Index is an average of four dataset quality indices to a maximum score of 10: inventory; wildlife; Forest Range Evaluation Program (FREP); and Reporting Silviculture Updates and Land status Tracking System (RESULTS).

Discussion

This performance measure demonstrates the ministry's commitment to continually improve the quality and integrity of data used to inform resource stewardship decisions; the better the quality and integrity of the data, the more informed the decision.

The ministry collects and monitors various sources of data, and this information is used as the basis for sustainable resource management decisions. This index assesses improvement in the quality of

four key ministry datasets: forest inventory, wildlife inventory, resource values, and forest harvesting data. Each of these four information sources are analyzed and scored independently, then combined to form the index reported in this measure. The combination of four data sets into a single index tells the ministry how well it is improving the overall quality of data used to inform stewardship decisions.

The achievement of this year's target reflects the ministry's commitment to focus a portion of mid-term timber supply and land-based investment funding on improving forest inventory as well as elk and moose inventories to ensure that the best information is available to make sound and durable resource management decisions that benefit British Columbians for generations to come.

Objective 2.2: Natural resource productivity is optimized through conservation, stewardship, and effective policy, legislation and external relationships.

Strategies

- Work in partnership with natural resource ministries to renew natural resource policy and legislation that recognises requirements for resilient ecosystems and species, while streamlining regulation to improve competitiveness.
- Increase ecosystem health by working collaboratively with multi-sector partner groups and First Nations to restore degraded ecosystems through invasive plant management, ecosystem restoration, remediation and best management practices.
- Facilitate decision making through collection of current, robust, and comprehensive assessment and inventory of the province's priority fish and wildlife populations that contribute to the Province's diversity of hunting and fishing opportunities.
- Look for opportunities to improve timber quality and supply through reforestation, forest inventory, fuel management and intensive and innovative silviculture.
- Advance professional reliance and the use of qualified persons by maintaining clear accountabilities and an environment that supports innovative practices.
- Support bio-economy opportunities by engaging with industry through the Bio-Economy Transformation Council, and supporting research and development on bio-economy.
- Facilitate bio-economy development through tenures supporting increased access to fibre, and through increased fibre utilization.
- Make decisions that consider landscape level conditions, climate change, and cumulative effects on key environmental, social and economic values, including historic and archaeologically significant places.
- Foster engagement with First Nations and local governments in landscape level approaches to management.

Performance Measure 5: Mountain Caribou herds meeting recovery objective.

Performance Measure	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual[2]	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target[3]	2016/17 Target[3]
Number of Mountain Caribou herds in recovery[1]	2	4	7	14	3	N/A	N/A

Data Source: Fish and Wildlife Recovery Implementation Section, Resource Management Objectives Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

[1] Mountain Caribou are a species at risk and herds are in decline. The ministry is under Cabinet directive to halt the decline by 2014. Targets are the progressive accumulation of Mountain Caribou herds that are expected to be stable or increasing.

[2] Herds were designated as stable or increasing based on most recent aerial surveys conducted in late winter. It does not consider recruitment level. Caution is necessary in interpretation of short term trends.

[3] In 2014/15, this performance measure was replaced in the 2015/16-17/18 ministry service plan with a broader measure of resource stewardship.

Discussion

British Columbia is home to all of the world's mountain caribou, which have been in decline over the last decade or more due to predation, overhunting, and habitat impacts. Significant predation pressure is occurring from wolves, cougar and bears. In 2007, the government announced the *Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan* with goals to stop the decline in mountain caribou by 2014 and set recovery numbers to 2,500 by 2027. The recovery plan supports B.C.'s commitments to the national Protection of Species at Risk Accord.

Based on survey results over the last four to eight years, three of 15 mountain caribou herds appear to be stable (Purcells South, Columbia North, Narrow Lake). The performance is down from last year which reported seven herds in recovery. This reflects several confirmed declines in herds (e.g., South Selkirk, Wells Gray South) and uncertainty about the status of other herds (e.g., Central Selkirks, Barkerville). To achieve the performance target requires a strong commitment to the recommendations in the *Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan*. The start of an aerial removal of wolves in the South Selkirk area is one such step.

The ministry has protected high-value habitat, reduced disturbance from motorized winter recreation and reduced predation. Going forward, augmenting small populations, through maternal penning, and more predator control will occur as the need arises. Winter surveys of caribou herds, at least every third year, will continue to assess effectiveness of these management actions, consistent with the *Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan* goals. As the recovery plan goal to stop the decline by 2014 concluded in 2014/15, this performance measure was replaced in the 2015/16-17/18 Ministry Service Plan with a broader measure of resource stewardship. The ministry, however, continues to monitor and evaluate its ongoing efforts towards protecting mountain caribou through the implementation of management and recovery plans in various parts of the province.

Performance Measure 6: Recovery of open forest and grassland ecosystems.

Performance Measure	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Number of hectares of ecosystems in recovery mode	N/A	13,400	16,600	22,600	22,600	28,600	34,600

Data Sources: Land Based Investment Strategy - Categories: Range Remediation; Ecosystem Restoration; and Invasive Plant Management. Invasive Alien Plant Program database. District range reports. Ecosystem Restoration Steering Committee reports.

[1] Targets are cumulative over the three year period with an expected increase of 6,000 hectares recovered in 2014/15, and 6,000 hectares recovered per year in 2015/16 and 2016/17 based on current funding levels, and include an aggregate total of Range Remediation, Ecosystem Restoration, and Invasive Plant Management annual targets.

Discussion

This measure assesses one aspect of the ministry's efforts to maintain ecosystem health through the recovery of open forest and grassland ecosystems, which include riparian and subalpine types that are particularly vulnerable to commercial and recreational use. The measure uses data from inspections and audits which confirm that degraded ecosystems are effectively remediated and in recovery. Biodiversity, wildlife habitat, forage, wood fibre, clean air and water, and recreation and economic opportunities are the products of healthy ecosystems.

During 2014/15, the ministry restored ecosystem health to another 6,000 hectares of open forest and grassland ecosystems and achieved the cumulative target of 22,600 hectares in recovery. This was achieved through its efforts in range remediation, ecosystem restoration and invasive plant management.

Performance Measure 7: Timber volume gain from silviculture investments.

Performance Measure	2010/11 Baseline	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Timber volume gain (millions of cubic metres) expected in 65 years from silviculture treatments completed[1]	7.3	7.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	7.7	7.6

Data Source: Volume gains (millions of cubic metres of wood) estimated using data submitted by licensees and the ministry to RESULTS (Reporting Silviculture Updates and Land status Tracking System) and SPAR (Seed Planning and Registry System).

[1] Gain as compared to basic reforestation using natural unimproved seed sources; "Timber Volume gain" includes incremental growth associated with silviculture treatment (planting using select seed, rehabilitation, juvenile spacing, and fertilization) and is based on the estimated total accumulated volume gains in 65 years.

[2] Targets are based in part on Land Based Investment Strategy (LBIS) funding, and are also influenced by licensee activity. Targets are forecast based on activity from the previous two years as, for example, seedlings sown in fall 2013 for planting in spring and summer 2015 influence targets in 2015/16.

Discussion

In British Columbia, there is a legal obligation to reforest harvested areas which is part of the basic silviculture program. Silviculture practices support the achievement of timber supply objectives, for example, as set out in *'Beyond the Beetle: A Mid-Term Timber Supply Action Plan'*. This measure complements attainment of the provincial sustainable harvest level targets: 57 million cubic metres per year during the mid-term, and 65 million cubic metres per year for the long-term.

The achievement in 2014/15 reflects continued planting with high numbers of tree seedlings sown with seed that has been bred to optimize things such as size and speed of growth (select seed) as well as government's committment to reforest areas impacted by mountain pine beetle and wildfire. Approximately four million cubic metres of the volume projected in this measure is additional volume not currently included in the future allowable annual cut but will be potentially available for future harvest. The measure accounts for Forests for Tomorrow investments and volume gains from the required use of select seed. The measure reflects the benefit from investments in the land base, forest resource stewardship, and sustainable timber productivity.

The increases in the performance measure targets since the 2010/11 baseline reflect the ministry's commitment to addressing the substantial long lasting economic, social and environmental impacts resulting from the devastating mountain pine beetle infestations and recent large-scale wildfires.

Objective 2.3: Safe and environmentally responsible natural resource management practices.

Strategies

- Remediate Crown contaminated sites to ensure clean land and water for the protection of human health and the environment.
- In cooperation with industry, improve environmental and safety management through ministry business and policy development.
- Sustain the current ministry safety management system and approach to resource worker safety.
- Protect public health, safety and values at risk, and encourage sustainable, healthy resilient ecosystems by effectively monitoring and managing threats such as unwanted wildfire, flood and landslides.
- Promote safe and responsible motorized use on public lands by supporting the implementation of the Trails Strategy for British Columbia, and the implementation of the Off Road Vehicle Management Framework.

Performance Measure 8: Dam safety inspection compliance.

Performance Measure	2002/03 Baseline[2]	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Percentage of owners of High, Very High and Extreme Consequence Classification dams that complete the required inspections and return the *Dam Status Report Form*[1]	62%	98%	94%	93%	90%	95%	95%

Data Source: Water Management Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

[1] Based on Dam Status Report Form returns from owners of the approximately 354 High, Very High and Extreme Consequence Classification dams in B.C in 2014/15. The numbers of dams in these classes are subject to change due to reclassification, addition of new, or removal of dams.

[2] Percentage of owners of High and Very High Consequence Classification dams that returned the Inspection Compliance Forms for 2002/03. The 'Extreme' classification did not exist at that time.

Discussion

Under the authority of the Dam Safety Regulation of the *Water Act*, all B.C. dam owners with High, Very High or Extreme Downstream Consequence Classification dams are required to complete an annual form to confirm the status of their dam inspection program. The results are used by the ministry to determine whether dams are being inspected and maintained by the owners as required and assists the ministry in meeting its objective of effectively monitoring and managing risks to the environment and public health and safety. The accuracy and reliability of the data is dependent on the dam owners completing the form properly.

Forms are mailed to dam owners in late November, requiring submission by January 31st. Prior to 2013/14, dam safety program staff contacted dam owners multiple times in writing and by phone to encourage submission of forms. In 2013/14, an administrative change was made to provide dam owners with the form in early December and to follow up with a registered letter in January. Based on the lower rate of return of completed forms, the dam safety program will determine what changes, are required to continue to ensure dam safety inspection compliance.

At least once every five years, each high, very high and extreme consequence dam receives a site audit by a ministry Dam Safety Officer. During these visits, compliance with the regulation is assessed and dam owners have the opportunity to discuss the status of their dams and their inspection and maintenance programs. The annual reporting by dam owners augments these dam audits and provides the Dam Safety Officer with interim information allowing them to decide whether or not additional information from the dam owner or a site visit is warranted. Those owners that do not meet the requirements of the BC Dam Safety Regulation may be subject to a process of escalating enforcement until compliance is achieved. Detailed compliance and audit results are published each year in the *Dam Safety Program Annual Report*.

Goal 3: Productive, thriving natural resource sector and resilient communities.

This ministry goal supports the Taxpayer Accountability Principles of Integrity, Respect and Service by demonstrating the commitment to making natural resource use decisions that are transparent and respect the shared public trust of B.C.'s land and natural resources. The ministry fosters respect through effective communications that ensure all parties are properly informed and consulted on natural resource use decisions. The ministry supports the principle of service by delivering cost-efficient, effective and value-for-money services and programs that support community needs and optimize economic benefits of natural resource development. By establishing its third goal towards a thriving natural resource sector and resilient communities, the ministry directly supports government's strategic goals of a strong economy and a secure future.

Objective 3.1: Natural resource decisions and dispositions support community needs and provincial priorities, and encourage private investment.

Strategies

- Manage and resolve high value Crown land disposition (sale) proposals, providing certainty for industry to capture economic opportunities, such as liquefied natural gas, while enhancing government priorities and producing broad public benefit.
- Encourage industry and private investment by providing, clarity and predictability in permitting.
- Ensure durable and timely decisions and improved delivery of appropriate natural resource sector major projects.
- Develop and coordinate a consistent and effective First Nation consultation function for the natural resource sector to respect First Nation interests in the land base.
- Foster an efficient and innovative market-based operating climate and support the diversification of natural resource product markets and Crown land utilization.
- Continue to engage with forest-dependent communities, First Nations and key stakeholders to address impacts of the mountain pine beetle through government's mid-term timber supply action plan.

Objective 3.2: Economic benefits of natural resource development are optimized.

Strategies

- Set the operating context, through policy and regulation, to support sustainable use of natural resources and optimize revenue generated by the natural resource sector.
- Support the implementation of initiatives that contribute to a globally competitive and sustainable sector.
- Include First Nations as a partner in the forest sector through the First Nations Forest Sector Strategy.

- Continue to build partnerships with local governments, other agencies and First Nations to identify sustainable resource development opportunities and support priority treaty and reconciliation initiatives.
- Improve forest fibre utilization to support further manufacturing and bioenergy.
- Strengthen the contribution of B.C.'s historic places, including provincial heritage sites, to community identity, economic health, and environmental stewardship.
- Develop, maintain and market a system of recreation sites and trails on Crown land to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for the public that create social, economic and environmental benefits for local communities and the Province.
- Collaborate with industry and ministries to focus the B.C. Resort Strategy on enabling success of existing all-season resorts.

Performance Measure 9: Government revenue derived from the use of Crown land and natural resources.

Performance Measure	2011/12 Actual[1]	2012/13 Actual[1]	2013/14 Actual[2]	2014/15 Target[3]	2014/15 Actual[4]	2015/16 Target[3]	2016/17 Target[3]
Forests	$474M	$521M	$665M	$747M	$689M	$782M	$814M
Crown Lands	$83M	$69M	$137M	$184M	$125M	$133M	$98M
Natural Resource Operations	$412M	$453M	$462M	$441M	$446M	$435M	$475M
Total Ministry Revenue	**$969M**	**$1,043M**	**$1,264M**	**$1,372M**	**$1,260M**	**$1,350M**	**$1,387M**

Data Sources: (see footnotes below)

[1] Ministry 2012/13 Annual Service Plan Report.

[2] Ministry 2013/14 Oracle GL actuals.

[3] Ministry 2015/16 - 2017/18 Service Plan.

[4] Ministry 2014/15 Oracle GL actuals in period ADJ12015 run on April 16, 2015.

Actual 2014/15 revenue (unaudited) is subject to verification by audit by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG). The 2014/15 revenue will continue to fluctuate minimally until Closing Adjustment Period #3 is completed on or before June 30, 2015. The target release date of Public Accounts is expected to be in early July 2015.

Discussion

The ministry has indirect influence on this measure from policy, regulation and permitting processes that contribute to an operating environment conducive to revenue generation. The measure monitors and forecasts anticipated revenue into the government's consolidated revenue fund, based on analysis of Crown forest and land activity under prevailing economic conditions, and is therefore subject to market and other fluctuations.

Forest revenue includes stumpage from timber tenures and BC Timber Sales and other sources such as softwood lumber border taxes, log export fees, annual rents, range permits and fees, other

miscellaneous fees, waste, etc. Crown land revenue is generated from Crown land tenures, Crown land sales, Crown land royalties and application fees. Natural resource operations revenue is generated primarily from water licences and rentals, *Wildlife Act* fees and licences, and land registry fees.

A sharp decrease in harvest volume primarily associated with interior timber tenures during the second half of 2014/15 led to a decrease in the amount of forest revenue originally forecasted to be collected. The total Crown harvest volume was 12.2 per cent lower than the 2014/15 budget forecast (57.1 million cubic metres versus 65.0 million cubic metres).

In addition, there was a significant decline in revenue associated with the Softwood Lumber Border Tax due to the Random Lengths Framing Lumber Composite being above the zero percent export tax rate threshold the entire year. Actual Softwood Lumber Border Tax revenues for 2014/15 are $0; however, expected federal government holdback and administrative fees are approximately $6.3 million. In comparison, revenues from the Softwood Lumber Border Tax in 2012/13 were $109.5 million and in 2013/14 was $20.1 million.

Crown Land revenue for 2014/15 was $125 million, $59 million less than the target of $184 million. This is the result of two 2014/15 planned Release of Assets for Economic Generation (RAEG) sales completing prior to March 31, 2014 (which included $49 million generated through the sale of Burke Mountain Property and $14 million generated through the sale of two blocks of Green Timbers property).

Ministry Financial Report

Management Discussion and Analysis

The ministry's budget for 2014/15 was $591.283 million. However, through the course of the year the ministry gained access to contingencies and other authorizations totaling $250.819 million. By comparison, the ministry also collected $1.26 billion in revenue. The breakdown in additional funding is as follows:

Direct Fire:

- $234.738 million based on an active fire season.

BC Timber Sales:

- $7.169 million for increased silviculture liability and increased maintenance costs for storm damage which was offset by an increase in revenue of $48.000 million.

Ministry Operations:

- Grace Islet: $5.990 million for the purchase and remediation of Grace Islet;
- Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative: $0.322 million to undertake proactive steps to help reduce future wildfire risks (supplemented with Ministry base funding of $4.678 million, for a total amount of $5.000 million); and
- *Forestry Service Providers Protection Act* Fund: $1.000 million to compensate contractors who were not paid for services provided to licensees who became insolvent.

Softwood Lumber Agreement:

- $1.600 million based on a mid-year transfer of the program from the Ministry of International Trade in order to consolidate aspects of the Softwood Lumber Agreement program into a single ministry.

The ministry's total expenditure spending of $837.587 million is a combination of the base budget and contingency/other authorizations.

The ministry's capital spending for 2014/15 was $63.791 million which included contingency approval of $14.149 million for the Natural Resource Permitting Project.

Ministry Financial Report Summary Table

	Estimated	Other Authorizations[1]	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Integrated Resource Operations	58,880	6,312	65,192	73,311	8,119
Resource Stewardship	94,783	0	94,783	98,336	3,553
Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation	13,782	1,000	14,782	0	(14,782)
Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations	23,737	0	23,737	25,251	1,514
Regional Operations	117,264	0	117,264	118,047	783
Executive and Support Services	63,899	0	63,899	64,712	813
Sub-Total – Ministry Operations Vote	**372,345**	**7,312**	**379,657**	**379,657**	**0**
Direct Fire	63,165	234,738	297,903	297,903	0
BC Timber Sales	155,753	7,169	162,922	162,922	0
Crown Land	20	0	20	0	(20)
Forest Stand Management Fund	0	0	0	0	0
International Strategy and Competition	0	1,600	1,600	1,373	(227)
Sub-Total – Other Appropriations	**218,938**	**243,507**	**462,445**	**462,198**	**(247)**
Sub-Total – All Appropriations	**591,283**	**250,819**	**842,102**	**841,855**	**(247)**
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual[2]	0	0	0	(4,268)	(4,268
Total – All Appropriations	**591,283**	**250,819**	**842,102**	**837,587**	**(4,515**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)					
Executive and Support Services	26,600	0	26,600	25,147	(1,453)
BC Timber Sales	29,694	0	29,694	24,495	(5,199)
Natural Resource Permitting Project	0	14,149	14,149	14,149	0
Total	**56,294**	**14,149**	**70,443**	**63,791**	**(6,652)**

	Estimated	Other Authorizations[1]	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Other Financing Transactions ($000)					
BC Timber Sales Disbursements					
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	67,202	0	67,202	65,618	(1,584)
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	**(67,202)**	**0**	**(67,202)**	**65,618**	**(1,584)**
Crown Land Admistration					
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	6,382	0	6,382	1,859	(4,523)
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	**6,382**	**0**	**6,382**	**1,859**	**(4,523)**
Crown Land Special Account					
Receipts	70	0	70	29	(41)
Disbursements	0	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	**70**	**0**	**0**	**29**	**(41)**
Tourism Development					
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	600	0	600	188	(412)
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	**0**	**0**	**600**	**188**	**(412)**
Habitat Conservation Trust					
Receipts	(6,000)	0	(6,000)	(6,704)	(704)
Disbursements	6,000	0	6,000	6,704	704
Net Cash Source (Requirements	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total Receipts	**(5,930)**	**0**	**(5,930)**	**(6,675)**	**(745)**
Total Disbursements	**80,184**	**0**	**80,184**	**74,369**	**(5,815)**
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	**74,254**	**0**	**74,254**	**67,694**	**(6,560)**

[1] "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies. The source of the Other Appropriations amounts is referenced above. Amounts in this column are not related to the "estimated amount" under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

[2] The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of $4.268 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Forest Practices Board Financial Report

Management Discussion and Analysis

The Forest Practices Board spent 99.95 per cent of its allocated budget in 2014/15. The Forest Practices Board independently monitors and reviews forest and range practices in B.C.'s public forests and rangelands. The Board audits both tenure holders and government ministries for compliance with forest and range practices legislation, carries out special investigations and issues reports as appropriate, investigates concerns and complaints from the public, and participates in appeals to the Forest Appeals Commission. It informs both the B.C. public and the international marketplace of forest and range licensees' performance in carrying out sound practices and complying with legal requirements.

The Board's mandate is provided by the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act*. While the Board operates independently from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, its budget vote is the responsibility of the Minister. The Board reports its accomplishments and priorities through an annual report found at: www.bcfpb.ca/.

Forest Practices Board Resource Summary Table

	Estimated	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Total	3,815	0,000	3,815	3,813	(2)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)					
Total	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000

Appendix A: Contact Information and Hyperlinks

Contact Information

Headquarters

P.O. Box 9361 STN PROV GOVT,
Victoria, B.C., V8W 9M2
Phone: 250 387-1772
Fax: 250 387-3291
www.gov.bc.ca/for/contacts.html

BC Timber Sales – Headquarters
Website: www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/
Contacts: www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/contact/

Media
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250 356-5261

FrontCounter BC:
Call toll free: 1-877-855-3222
Call from outside North America at:
++1-604-586-4400
E-mail: FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca
To contact specific offices, please visit:
www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/

Regional Operations Offices:

Surrey
Suite 200 - 10428 153rd Street, V3R 1E1
Phone: 604 586-4400

Nanaimo
Suite 142, 2080 Labieux Road, V9T 6J9
Phone: 250 751-7220

Smithers
3726 Alfred Avenue, V0J 2N0
Phone: 250 847-7260

Prince George
5th Floor, 1011 4th Avenue, V2L 3H9
Phone: 250 565-6779

Williams Lake
200-640 Borland Street, V2G 4T1
Phone: 250 398-4327

Kamloops
441 Columbia Street, V2C 2T3
Phone: 250 828-4131

Cranbrook
1902 Theatre Road, V1C 7G1
Phone: 250 426-1766

Fort St. John
400 -10003 110 Avenue, V1J 6M7
Phone: 250 787-3411

Hyperlinks to Additional Information

Ministry website: www.gov.bc.ca/for/

BC Timber Sales: www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/

Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan: www.bcjobsplan.ca/

Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan 36-Month Progress Report:
http://www.bcjobsplan.ca/wp-content/uploads/BCjobsplan_36mo_progressreport.pdf

Climate Adaptation Strategy: www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/adaptation/index.html

EmergencyManagementBC: www.embc.gov.bc.ca/index.htm

GeoBC: geobc.gov.bc.ca/

Land Based Investment Strategy: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hcp/fia/landbase/

Major Projects BC: www.for.gov.bc.ca/major_projects/

***Our Natural Advantage: Forest Sector Strategy for British Columbia*:**
www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/forestsectorstrategy/

Wildfire Information: www.bcwildfire.ca www.facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo
twitter.com/BCGovFireInfo

Appendix B: List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Crowns
Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions
Forest Practices Board
Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

Appendix C: Minister's Mandate and Actions Summary

The Premier's June 2013 Mandate Letter provided the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations with direction on strategic priorities. On June, 2014, an updated Mandate Letter to the Minister carried over many of the priorities. The ministry's resulting actions to March 31, 2015 are summarized below:

Mandate Letter Direction	Ministry's Action
Midterm Timber Supply **June 2013:** Consult with communities about the mid-term timber supply report and a process to address recommendations around area-based tenures. **June 2014 Update:** Respond to public consultation on the mid-term timber supply recommendations on area-based management.	A public engagement process, launched in April 2014, sought feedback on the social, economic and environmental benefits from proponents interested in converting their volume based licence to an area based licence. It also sought input on the criteria for evaluating applications and the process for implementing conversions, including specific application requirements and target locations for conversion opportunities. On June 27th, 2014 a report, *Results of Public Engagement and Recommendations for British Columbia* summarized input received and made 35 recommendations. In light of the June 26, 2014 Supreme Court of Canada Tsilhqot'in decision and requests from forest companies and communities to focus on key immediate priorities, legislative changes did not proceed.
BC Timber Sales Effectiveness **June 2013:** Examine the role and effectiveness of BC Timber Sales and bring forward recommendations for improvement to Cabinet. **June 2014 Update:** Implement the recommendation of the BC Timber Sales Effectiveness Review.	The ministry conducted a review of the role and effectiveness of BC Timber Sales, which included extensive stakeholder consultation. The ministry is implementing the majority of the 60 recommendations from the review, and completed an implementation plan in August 2014. The ministry met with industry in fall 2014 to provide a progress report on implementation and receive input on specific recommendations. It continues to evaluate, and engage with industry and other stakeholders on, the outstanding recommendations. Full implementation of the recommendations will occur over the next two years. BC Timber Sales substantially achieved its volume targets in 2014/15, selling 13.1 million m^3.
Softwood Lumber Agreement **June 2013:** Monitor and assist with Softwood Lumber Agreement treaty discussions leading up to renegotiation in 2016. **June 2014 Update:** Lead the Softwood Lumber Agreement treaty discussions leading up to renegotiation with the United States in 2015.	The ministry is leading consultations with the B.C. lumber industry, and legal and expert advisors. The ministry maintains regular contact with Ministry of International Trade, forest industry stakeholders, legal counsel and the federal government - Canada's overall lead on the file. The ministry is continuing work to further strengthen forest policy. A strategic working group comprised of B.C. industry representatives and the deputy ministers of this ministry and the Ministry of International Trade meet regularly to develop B.C.'s position, work plan and contingency plan. A consultant was engaged in August 2014 as B.C.'s Chief Negotiator for the Softwood Lumber Agreement.
GeoScience BC **June 2013:** Work with GeoScience BC to establish long term, predictable funding to foster oil, gas, and mineral exploration and development in B.C.	The ministry worked with the Ministry of Energy and Mines, which led the initiative, to establish predictable funding options for decision in 2014/15.

Mandate Letter Direction	Ministry's Action
Mining Application Streamlining **June 2013:** Streamline all mining application processes to ensure that they can all be done online with faster turnaround times for project proponents. **June 2014 Update:** Support the development of new mines and major mine expansions by working with industry and the natural resource ministries to ensure that B.C.'s mines permitting process is the best in Canada.	In 2014/15, the ministry's Major Projects Office, in collaboration with the Chief Inspector of Mines Office, updated the *Guide to Coordinated Authorizations for Major Mines*, targeting government staff as the primary audience. This is the companion document to the *Proponents' Guide to Coordinated Authorizations for Major Mines Projects (2013)*. Additions to the e-Applications available since the last report included a new water licence launched in December 2013, *Land Act* applications in May 2014, and *Water Act* Section 8 and 9 electronic applications. The ministry is continuing its discussions with associations and stakeholders and its ongoing assessment of efficiency. In January 2015, a Major Mines Project Office and Board was created by the Ministry of Energy and Mines to support all new major mine developments and will handle all future major mine applications in the Province. With the creation of the Major Mine Project Office, the ministry is now dedicated to support of major mining projects through the Board.
Trade Missions **June 2013:** Co-sponsor with the forest industry annual B.C. Trade missions to China, India, Japan and Korea to continue diversifying B.C. lumber exports. **June 2014 Update:** As above in the 2013 Letter.	A successful trade mission was conducted in October 2014 to China, Japan and Korea. In Japan, the Canadian Ambassador recognized the Council of Forest Industries/Canada Wood Group's 40 years of involvement in Japan. The mission delegation to Asia included over 25 senior forestry executives. Plans for a 2015 Asia mission and a 2016 mission to India are underway in collaboration with Forestry Innovation Investment and the Ministry of International Trade.
Cellulose Filament Research **June 2013:** Work with the forest industry to develop the cellulose filament research opportunity in British Columbia.	The ministry announced a funding contribution to *FPInnovations* to be used as part of an existing national research and development program. B.C.'s contributions focused on non-traditional applications of cellulose filaments that are most beneficial for B.C. – specifically for the province's northern bleached softwood kraft pulp producers.
Silviculture Investment **June 2013**: Develop program plans to distribute an additional $10 million in funding for silviculture and reforestation beginning in 2015/16. **June 2014 Update:** Develop and implement a plan for the $10 million dollars in additional silviculture provided to reforestation in the province beginning in 2015/16.	Planning began in 2013/14 with stakeholders and ministry staff to determine the most appropriate silviculture investments, and surveys identified specific treatment areas. The overall implementation plan, is to create a multi-year silviculture strategy to achieve Forests for Tomorrow planting numbers as a new steady-state target of 28 million seedlings annually, by 2019/20. Surveys which began in 2014 will identify additional specific treatment areas. In 2015/16 approximately $6 million will be shifted into current reforestation within Forests For Tomorrow, reflecting benefits and opportunities for improving the mid-term timber supply.
Off-road Vehicles **June 2013:** Implement the Off-road Vehicle Strategy.	In March 2014, the *Off-Road Vehicle Act* was passed. The Act replaces the province's 40-year-old *Motor Vehicle (All Terrain) Act* and will provide certainty, safety and regulatory structure for thousands of off-road enthusiasts. Currently, the ministry is working with stakeholders to implement the Act and develop the regulations.

Mandate Letter Direction	Ministry's Action
BC Guides and Outfitters **June 2013:** Work with the B.C. Guides and Outfitters to ensure continued access to Crown land and continued economic and tourism opportunities in rural British Columbia. **June 2014 Update:** Continue to work with B.C. Guides and Outfitters and other backcountry operators to ensure continued access and business certainty to Crown land and provide economic and tourism opportunities in rural British Columbia.	Working with stakeholders, the ministry amended the *Wildlife Act* to allow corporations as well as individuals to hold guiding territory certificates. This makes guide certificate ownership less risky by reducing liability among co-owners and increasing opportunities for individuals to come together to purchase territories. Additional changes replace the licensing requirement for assistant guides with a required government approved exam and an authorization issued by the employing guide outfitter, giving guide outfitters more flexibility to hire qualified help in unexpected peak periods. Amendments to the *Wildlife Act* and the regulations for the assistant guides are complete. Regulations regarding corporate and assistant guide licences are have also been completed. The February 2015 update to the ministry's Adventure Tourism Policy improves tenure certainty, such as, tenuring lodges under a lease versus a licence; lease terms for base camp lodge increasing up to 60 years; licences for Adventure Tourism guiding increasing up to 45 years; and addressing overlapping tenure issues.
Authorization Streamlining **June 2013:** Undertake a review of the provincial permitting processes to eliminate red tape wherever possible while maintaining rigorous permitting requirements. **June 2014 Update:** Work with other resource ministries to ensure application processes are streamlined to ensure faster turnaround times for project proponents.	In March, responsibilities for fish, wildlife and park use permits were transferred to FrontCounterBC to continue the 'one window' approach and shift these permits to an electronic process. On February 2, 2015 the electronic submission process for the fish and wildlife applications was launched. Policy work is underway to reduce application requirements for low impact *Land Act* investigative permits. In May 2014, electronic applications for 28 programs under Crown lands were launched. This adds to the electronic applications for Water Licences and the Notice of Works. All of the electronic applications that are live on virtual FrontCounter BC support mines projects where multiple authorizations are required to operate and contribute to a streamlined process.
Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC Work with the Ministry of Finance to ensure all revenues from fishing licences are provided to the Freshwater Fisheries Society for conservation purposes no later than 2015/16.	A contract with Freshwater Fisheries Society BC was announced in March 2015, so that as of April 1, 2015, 100 per cent of net angling revenues are transferred to the Freshwater Fisheries Society BC.